

Message Text

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SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL FOOD LABELING SURVEY

REF: STATE 089779

1. DANISH GUIDELINES FOR NUTRITIONAL LABELING WERE USED IN SEPT 1975. ALTHOUGH VOLUNTARY WITH NO DEADLINE SET FOR COMPULSORY COMPLIANCE, MOST FOOD PRODUCERS COMPLY FULLY WITH GHE GUIDELINES. IN ADDITION, LARGE CHAINSTORE GROUPS AND IMPORTERS REQUIRE THE RECOMMENDED NUTRITIONAL DECLARATION ON LABELS. AS EXEPTION TO VOLUNTARY NATURE OF GENERAL GUIDELINES, DANISH REGULATIONS WILL BE ISSUED PRIOR TO JUNE 21, 1978 ONT THE COMPULSORY LABELING OF FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USE IN ACCORDANCE WITH EC DIRECTIVE OF DEC 21, 1976 AND ON DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS (SEE PARS 3 AND 4).

2. AS A MINIMUM, BASIC NUTRITIONAL DECLARATION SHOULD INCLUDE TOTAL CONTENT OF ENERGY (IN JOULES POSSIBLY SUPPLEMENTED BY EQUIVALENT CALORIES), PROTEIN, FAT AND CARBOHYDRATES LISTED IN THAT ORDER. CONTENT OF PROTEIN, FAT AND CARBOHYDRATES SHOULD BE GIVEN IN GRAMS PER 100 GRAMS OF PRODUCT. TOTAL CONTENT AND LISTING OF SPECIFIC CARBOHYDRATES MAY BE DECLARED, INCLUDING ADDED CARBOHYDRATES, EG "OF WHICH ADDED SUGAR (SACCHAROSE)". BASIC DECLARATION MAY ALSO BE SUPPLEMENTED BY PERCENTAGE ENERGY

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DISTRIBUTION FROM CARBOHYDRATES, FAT ETC AND BY DECLARATION OF RECOMMENDED ENERGY DISTRIBUTION IN TOTAL DAILY DIET (CARBOHYDRATES APPROX 55 PERCENT). INSTEAD OF PERCENTAGE DECLARATION, ENERGY CONTENT FROM PROTEIN, FAT AND CARBOHYDRATES MAY BE GIVEN IN ABSOLUTE NUMBERS, EG 3 GRAMS CARBOHYDRATE EQUIVALENT TO 50 KILOJOULES (12 KILOCALORIES).

3. EC DIRECTIVE OF DEC 21, 1976 REQUIRES HARMONIZATION OF MEMBER STATES' REGULATIONS FOR FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USE ("PARTICULAR NUTRITIONAL USES") PRIOR TO JUNE 21, 1978. DANISH REGULATION, CURRENTLY IN DRAFT FORM, CALLS FOR COMPULSORY LABELING IN DANISH LANGUAGE AS FOLLOWS: (1) DESCRIPTION OF FOOD AND SPECIAL NUTRITIONAL PRPERTIES OR, WHEN FOR BABIES OR SMALL CHILDREN, THE CATEGORY OF PERSON FOR WHICH INTENDED, (B) TYPE AND QUANTITY OF SPECIAL INGREDIENTS OR SPECIAL PROCESS GIVING SPECIAL NUTRITIONAL PROPERTIES, (C) CONTENT OF ENERGY EXPRESSED IN KILOJOULES AND KILOCALORIES AS WELL AS PROTEIN, FAT AND CARBOHYDRATES EXPRESSED IN GRAMS PER 100 GRAMS OR PER 100 MILLILITERS OF PRODUCT, AND (D) NET QUANTITY. IT WILL BE PERMISSIBLE TO EMPHASIZE ENERGY-REDUCED PROPERTIES OF PRODUCT BY DECLARING IT TO BE "SUGAR-FREE" OR "WITHOUT ADDITION OF SUGAR" BUT CLAIMS SUCH AS "CALORIE REDUCED" OR "SLIMMING FOOD" WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ON THE LABEL.

4. DANISH DIRECTIVE WILL BE ISSUED SHORTLY RE COMPULSORY LABELING OF NUTRITIONAL PREPARATIONS SOLD AS SUPPLEMENTS TO NORMAL DIET. LABELS MUST SHOW (A) PRODUCT DESCRIPTION FOLLOWED BY WORDS "NUTRITIONAL PREPARATION", (B) QUANTITY, (C) RECOMMENDED DAILY DOSE PLUS DECLARATION OF NUTRITIONAL INGREDIENTS BY UNITS OF WEIGHT, (D) STORAGE INSTRUCTIONS, (E) DATE OF MINIMUM KEEPING QUALITY, AND (F) MANUFACTURER'S OR IMPORTER'S NAME AND LOCATION.
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